

dedication, impressive talent, and noteworthy accomplishments. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors and look forward to seeing all they will accomplish in the years to come.

#### HONORING MALCOLM STOKELY

##### HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 6, 2017*

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a very special individual, Mr. Malcolm Stokely, of Clark County, Kentucky. Mr. Stokely, a part of the Greatest Generation, answered his nation's call to service during World War II.

Mr. Stokely enlisted in the United States Army on March 28, 1945. After training in Texas, he was sent to Missouri to board a massive train that transported thousands of troops across the Rocky Mountains to Portland, Oregon. The troops then boarded a ship, which, unknown to them, was part of a top-secret invasion party of hundreds of ships and thousands of troops headed for Japan. While en route, the United States dropped the first atomic bomb on Japan, which was ineffective in stopping the war. After the second bomb was dropped and Japan surrendered, the troops were told they had actually been headed for Japan and thousands of them likely would have died in battle. After the surrender, the ships turned around. Mr. Stokely's ship landed in Hawaii where he served out the remainder of his tour in the signal corps. He was discharged on December 9, 1946.

Mr. Stokely returned home to lead an active and productive life. At the age of 93, he is a regular on the golf course and leads an aerobics class. He is very active in his church, Ephesus Baptist, where he serves as a deacon and choir leader.

The bravery of Mr. Stokely and his fellow men and women of the United States military is heroic. Because they were willing to serve our great nation, our freedoms have been preserved for our generation and for future generations. He is truly an outstanding American patriot. It is my honor to recognize him before the United States House of Representatives.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO GRANBY FIRST CHURCH OF GOD

##### HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 6, 2017*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Granby First Church of God on 100 years of service and dedication to the Granby community.

Granby First Church of God, which was first known as the "old rock church," opened its doors in 1917. Since then, the church has welcomed thousands of people from all different walks of life. When Joplin was hit by a devastating tornado in May of 2011, Granby First Church of God didn't hesitate to open its doors for people outside their community. As people came in to volunteer and help with clean-up, they were allowed to use the Family Life Center as a place to stay.

Granby First Church of God is vital to the Granby, Missouri community.

I am honored to recognize Granby First Church of God and its dedication to not only southwest Missouri, but the many communities throughout the area. On behalf of Missouri's 7th Congressional District, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating Granby First Church of God on 100 years of service.

#### TIARA SISNEROS

##### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 6, 2017*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Tiara Sisneros for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Tiara Sisneros is a student at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Tiara Sisneros is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Tiara Sisneros for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

#### HONORING MR. VERNE ALLISON AND THE DELLS

##### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 6, 2017*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the R&B music group, the Dells. Mr. Verne Allison, the last surviving member of the Dells, was visiting Washington, D.C. over the last few days so I wanted to take this opportunity to recognize the group and their outstanding music.

Originally from Chicago, Illinois, the Dells formed out of a group of young men still in high school: Marvin Junior, Verne Allison, Johnny Funches, Chuck Barksdale and Mickey and Lucius McGill. They originally called themselves the El-Rays, but changed their name to The Dells once they signed with Vee Jay Records in 1955. It was at this record company where they released their hit recording, "Oh What a Night," which, at one point, finished right behind Elvis' "Don't Be Cruel" on the music charts. By the early 1960s, with their reach growing, the Dells were able to tour with big artists like Dinah Washington and Ray Charles, opening for them and exposing themselves to much bigger audiences.

A soundtrack to the 1960s would not be complete without soulful melodies from groups like the Dells. At a time of constant political and social upheaval, a Washingtonian could turn on the radio and be serenaded with

songs like the Dells' "Give Your Baby a Standing Ovation" and "Stay in My Corner," a 1965 top 30 R&B hit. Decades passed and the Dells' music largely adapted. Members of the band remained largely stable. Their final work was the "The Heart is a House for Love," part of a soundtrack for a movie in 1991. The Dells were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2004. Today, Verne Allison, one of the original members of the Dells, is the band's only surviving member.

While Mr. Allison was in my district, he worked closely with DC Legendary Musicians. This organization works to protect the legacy of D.C. area musicians, past and present, and promote the music of artists from Washington around the globe. Although Mr. Allison and the Dells are from Chicago, DC Legendary Musicians recognizes the impact that music from artists like the Dells—who have performed locally at the Howard Theater, Constitution Hall and the Kennedy Center—have had on D.C. and its own music scene and history. Their work is crucial to ensuring this essential part of D.C. culture stays intact. I thank DC Legendary Musicians for their contributions to the District.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Mr. Verne Allison and the Dells. We celebrate their harmonious and soulful music that is part of the rich American tapestry that is Rhythm and Blues. I am very pleased we can still listen to it today.

#### HONORING THE VICTIMS AND HISTORY OF THE MS "ST. LOUIS"

##### HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 6, 2017*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 78th anniversary of the day that 937 mostly Jewish refugees aboard the MS *St. Louis* were denied entry to the United States.

In the summer of 1939, fleeing unspeakable horrors under Hitler's regime, men, women, and children set sail in search of refuge. After being denied entry to the United States, Canada, and Cuba, many refugees were eventually accepted into several European countries. Over a quarter, however, were not so lucky and lost their lives in concentration camps.

The Brooklyn Synagogue Coalition for Refugees is one of many Jewish communities across the country that will gather to hold a candlelight vigil to honor the victims and history of this anniversary.

At a time when acts of fear and intolerance have dictated policies to yet again shut America's doors to those fleeing harm, we must remain committed to ensuring that America is and will continue to be a place of hope and second chances.

I'd like to thank the Brooklyn Synagogue Coalition for Refugees for their hard work and dedication to the Jewish community. As we reflect on this tragic occasion, let us recommit to ensuring that no one who is in desperate need is turned away from our country's shores.